

# INFORM. INVOLVE. EDUCATE.

National Fuel invites you to attend **PUBLIC INFORMATION FORUMS** on the proposed Pendleton Compressor Station on either Oct. 7th or Nov. 7th.

You will have the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations with National Fuel representatives responsible for compressor station design, safety, and operations and view architectural renderings of the proposed station. Third party experts will also be on hand for questions.

**THE FORUMS WILL INCLUDE: 16 potential hours of discussion and interaction with National Fuel representatives and environmental consultants; 6 presentations on the design and operation of the proposed station; enough space for 750 people in total to attend a presentation; architectural renderings of the proposed station on hand.**

The Wendelville Volunteer Fire Company's fee-based rental of space for this event, should not be interpreted as a project endorsement.



# National Fuel Public Information Forums

**Dates: Wednesday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 7.**

**Times: 1 – 9 p.m.**

**Location: Wendelville Fire Hall, 7340 Campbell Blvd., Pendleton**

**(A location for the November meeting has yet to be determined)**

**Presentations will be given at 2 p.m., 6 p.m. & 8 p.m.**

## **Advance reservations required to insure space accommodations**

In an effort to accommodate as many people as possible in a forum that allows for conversation and discussion, please **RSVP** in advance **for the presentation**. We can work to ensure there is space at 1 of 6 sessions offered in October and November.

**RSVP as soon as possible** for your spot at a presentation.

Please email your name, address, a telephone number and the number of people in your party to [Corpcomm@natfuel.com](mailto:Corpcomm@natfuel.com). You will receive a confirmation email or telephone call to confirm your reservation.



***National Fuel***

6363 Main Street  
Williamsville, NY 14221

# INFORM. INVOLVE. EDUCATE.

National Fuel would like to answer some questions about safety at the proposed Pendleton natural gas compressor station.

**You may have heard:** An unmanned compressor station, like the proposed Pendleton Compressor Station, is not safe.

**FACT:** Nearly all of National Fuel's compressor stations (37 of 38) are operated without full-time 24-hour operator coverage and all have excellent safety records. Hundreds of points are monitored continuously through the control systems, such as pressures, temperatures, flame detectors and gas sensors. Immediate action is taken through a control system to instantaneously respond without human intervention. National Fuel's Gas Control Operation Center (GCOC) in West Seneca, N.Y., also has the ability to control the fail-safe emergency shutdown system remotely. These methods are actually safer and quicker than deploying crews or even the actions of on-site staff. Operators can manage the system manually if required. In addition, GCOC will dispatch appropriately trained personnel to respond to the station immediately if required.



**You may have heard:** The proposed station will cause ground vibrations impacting the soil.

**FACT:** There will be no perceptible increase in vibration at nearby residences because of the compressor station.

**You may have heard:** Safety is not a priority of National Fuel or the natural gas industry.

**FACT:** Safety has always been National Fuel's top priority, as well as that of the natural gas industry. Federal pipeline safety rules are administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). PHMSA's regulations are mandatory and subject pipelines and pipeline infrastructure to vigorous inspections and audits. PHMSA has significant enforcement authority to ensure its regulations are carried out, including the ability to issue civil penalties of up to \$100,000 per violation, per day, and potential criminal penalties. National Fuel and Empire have outstanding records in complying with federal and state pipeline safety and environmental requirements.

**You may have heard:** The Wendelville Volunteer Fire Company would be the first responder if there was an emergency condition at the station.

**FACT:** Local emergency responders will not be involved with the operations of the proposed Pendleton Compressor Station. National Fuel's Gas Control Operations Center will monitor the facility and will identify any abnormal, unusual or emergency conditions at the station. In addition, hundreds of points are monitored continuously through the control systems, such as pressures, temperatures, flame detectors and gas sensors. Immediate action is taken through an on-site compressor station control system to instantaneously respond without human intervention. In the event of abnormal conditions, the Operations Center is able to make system adjustments remotely and dispatch appropriate personnel to respond immediately if required.



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## National Fuel would like to answer some questions about the location of the proposed Pendleton natural gas compressor station

**You may have heard:** The construction of a compressor station is not permitted within a light-industrial zoned area.

**FACT:** The siting of the proposed Pendleton Compressor Station within the Town of Pendleton's light industrial zone is both appropriate and permissible as it constitutes "Essential Services" as defined by the Town of Pendleton's zoning code. Other uses permitted in the light industrial district include a variety of industrial uses including, for example, the manufacturing and assembly of electronics, pharmaceuticals, and laboratories and research facilities. All of these industrial facilities could be constructed on the identical parcel on which National Fuel proposes to construct the compressor station. In addition, these industrial facilities could be much larger and would likely offer far less aesthetic treatment than the proposed station, as National Fuel only intends to develop 5-8 acres of the approximately 20-acre site and will incorporate an agricultural design. In an effort to cooperate with local officials and address local concerns regarding the compressor station, National Fuel has applied to the Town of Pendleton Planning Board for site plan review.



**You may have heard:** The proposed Pendleton Compressor Station would be the largest in New York state.

**FACT:** The proposed Pendleton Compressor Station would be neither the largest station in New York state nor an unusually large station. The 2 largest FERC-regulated compressor stations in New York are 40,010 and 38,800 horsepower, and a third station will total 36,102 horsepower following FERC approval of its expansion. In addition, there are 11 stations operating in New York with at least 17,000 horsepower.

**You may have heard:** The proposed compressor station development will be 20 acres.

**FACT:** National Fuel's agreement with the Tonawandas Sportsmen's Club, includes a conservation deed restriction that limits development of the 20-acre compressor station site to approximately 5 to 8 acres. No future development will take place in the remaining 12 to 15 acres, which will serve as an acreage buffer.

**You may have heard:** Property values will decrease as a result of the proposed compressor station.

**FACT:** National Fuel has never been provided, nor is it aware of, scientific evidence that the proximity to natural gas pipelines and above-ground facility construction has been detrimental to property values or new construction in the vicinity of such facilities. No quantifiable evidence in the marketplace indicates an apparent impact on either property values or appreciation rates for properties in close proximity to natural gas compressor stations. This is due, at least in part, to construction of compressor stations on large parcels on land, which are set back well off the road, and the use of buffers (trees/shrubs/berms) as barriers for noise and views, both of which are the case for the proposed Pendleton Compressor Station.

In National Fuel's experience, proximity to a compressor station or other natural gas facilities has not proven to be a detriment to new residential construction in the vicinity of existing facilities. Case in point, a luxury housing subdivision with home values well exceeding \$500,000 was developed several years ago in very close proximity (as close as 500 feet) to National Fuel's Porterville Compressor Station, which was built in the 1950s, in Elma, N.Y. Another upscale housing subdivision was developed in close proximity to National Fuel's existing transmission pipelines in Wheatfield, N.Y.



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## National Fuel would like to answer some questions about the proposed Pendleton natural gas compressor station.

**You may have heard:** Emissions from the proposed compressor station will negatively impact the health of adults and children, as well as wildlife and vegetation living in close proximity.

**FACT:** As part of the regulatory review process for its proposed compressor station facility, National Fuel will submit a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) air permit application. This application will address potential air quality impacts, both during construction and operation. In addition, National Fuel must comply with all federal air quality and emissions-related regulatory requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA), as governed by the Environmental Protection Agency. The CAA protects the public health and the environment through health and environmental science-based guidelines known as National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). These national standards protect public health and are sensitive to populations, such as children, the elderly and individuals afflicted with respiratory diseases. The CAAs national standards also protect public welfare, including protection against visibility impairment, and harm to animals, crops, vegetation and buildings.

Sources, including compressor station, must demonstrate source impact are below CAA national standards at or beyond the facility property lines. National Fuel utilizes air-dispersion modeling and annual emission testing, which is submitted to the NY DEC, to demonstrate its compliance with the CAA and its standards.

Additionally, National Fuel has been operating compressor stations in New York and Pennsylvania since the 1915, and today operates 38 stations. The company has never received a notification or a filed grievance of a health issue or negative impact on human beings, animals or wildlife as a result of 1 of its compressor stations.



**You may have heard:** Surrounding neighborhoods and wildlife will be affected by increased noise levels as the result of the proposed compressor station.

**FACT:** National Fuel will commit to both the community and to FERC that the proposed Pendleton Compressor Station will result in minimal to no predicted increase over current ambient noise levels at the closest residences. In addition, National Fuel's compressor stations and other aboveground facilities are designed and engineered to reduce and eliminate noise impacts via state-of-the-art noise-mitigation systems. For example, compressor packages and all noise-emitting ancillary equipment for the station are identified and receive an equipment-specific engineered noise abatement solution early in the design process. This approach promotes effective building, ventilation, exhaust system, gas vent systems, cooling fan and piping design to achieve compliance with stringent federal noise standards.

All new compressor station designs are also federally required to achieve below a day-to-night average sound level of 55 dBA Ldn at the nearest noise-sensitive area, such as residences, schools, hospitals and commercial buildings. A 55 dBA Ldn sound level is equal to 48.6 dBA, a level much quieter than an average conversation.

**You may have heard:** "Blow downs" of natural gas from the proposed compressor station will occur regularly, be excessively loud and prolonged.

**FACT:** The noise from the venting of natural gas otherwise known as a "blow down" will be held to the same stringent federal standards as daily station operations, and under no circumstance will the venting last for more than 10 minutes. The venting of gas is not regularly scheduled as this process is determined based on gas dispatch needs.

**You may have heard:** FERC is the only regulatory agency involved in the approval, design and construction process.

**FACT:** We are held accountable to rigorous standards by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) as well as many governmental agencies, including but not limited to:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
- Occupational Safety & Health Administration
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- New York State Department of Transportation
- New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
- New York State Heritage Program
- Native American Tribal Groups
- Local towns and townships – Road/building permits



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National Fuel would like to answer some questions about the proposed Pendleton natural gas compressor station.

**You may have heard:** National Fuel has hired an architect to assist with an “architectural design” of the compressor station.

**FACT:** In an effort to address perceived concerns, National Fuel did retain a licensed architect to design the facilities housing the natural gas infrastructure to be consistent with the surrounding area. This does well beyond standard design practices.



**You may have heard:** The Northern Access 2016 Project offers no benefit to the residents of Pendleton or New York State.

**FACT:** National Fuel's Northern Access 2016 Project is a **\$451 million** infrastructure investment that will have a significant economic impact in New York State and Pennsylvania, including more than **\$11.5 million** annually to the counties within which the project will be located. A one-time sales tax impact of approximately **\$6.6 million** will benefit those same counties. During the construction phase of the project, approximately **1,000 to 1,200** jobs will be created, with a payroll exceeding **\$138 million**, and an additional multiplier effect in other businesses. Additional jobs within National Fuel, and other local companies, will be sustained once the project is in service.

Broken down, Niagara County will receive estimated annual property taxes totaling approximately **\$2.8 million** and a **one-time sales tax impact estimated** at approximately **\$2.4 million**. The Starpoint Central School District will receive an annual school tax contribution of approximately **\$1.6 million** and Niagara Wheatfield Schools will receive an estimated **\$748,000 annually**. These monies, as determined by the local school districts, can be allocated toward capital or infrastructure projects, restoring or enhancing academic programs or staffing levels. As the New York State Comptroller recently announced, forecasted local government property tax increases will be capped at less than 1 percent, the lowest growth in property tax revenue in the tax cap era making, for tough decisions for school districts. National Fuel's significant annual incremental school tax contributions associated with the project will serve to alleviate some

of these near-term financial concerns. The Town of Pendleton will also receive approximately **\$103,000 annually** and the Town of Wheatfield will receive an estimated **\$25,000 annually**.

**You may have heard:** Property values will decrease as a result of the proposed compressor station.

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